

**John Aylett to George Washington, January 1, 1774,
with Reply on Verso, Letters to Washington and
Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of
the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus
Murray Hamilton.**

FROM JOHN AYLETT, ESQ.¹

1774 January – 1.—

DEAR SIR.

There is a deed of gift from your Lady, for several Slaves, to her Brother Bartholomew Dandridge, in Trust, for the Joint use of her decd. Sister and her Sister Aylett, recorded in new Kent county court. The deed expresses the Slaves were allotted to her, by her Brother W Dandridge, as, and for a proportionable, or Childs part, of the value of the Slaves, of Colo Dandridges estate.

I shall be very much obliged to you, to inform me, whether the Slaves, said to be allotted, were ever delivered, to Mrs. Washington: by whom the allotment was made, and whether, if it was not made by her Bror William, he ever assented to it.—

Betsy Joins me in Love to your Lady Self & Mr. Custis——and amDr Sir.—

Your most obedt Servt— JOHN AYLETT PS— direct to me, at Colo Bassetts - - - JA.—²

1 Born in 1748; died February 7, 1776. Married Elizabeth Dandridge, sister of Martha Washington, April 10, 1773.

2 MOUNT VERNON Jan: 8th. 1774 DR SIR In answer to your enquiries of the 1st Inst. I have to profess an entire ignorance of every matter, & thing respecting the Deed of Trust mentioned in your Letter, so far as relates to any

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personal knowledge; upon discoursing however with Mrs. Washington on this Subject, I learn, that the Negro's were never delivered to her, that she desired Mr. Barthu. or her Mother (she does not recollect which) to have the matter transacted between herself & Sisters; but whether Mr. Willm. Dandridge was in the Country, consenting thereto, or not, she does not recollect.—This Sir is all the information I have it in my power to give you—Mrs. Washington joins me in love to Mrs Aylett & yourself and I am Dr Sir Yr. Most Obedt. G W——N (Washington's reply.)